Downsizing Government staff

†1748. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to downsize Government staff;

(b) if so, whether Government have also decided to reduce the number of posts of the All India Services;

(c) if so, the percentage of posts to be reduced; and

(d) by when, the said decision would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a)Yes, Sir.(b) to (d) The decision for downsizing is applicable to the Central Government Ministries/Departments/Organisations.The All India Services are constituted under the All India Services Act and Regulations framed thereunder. They serve both the State Governments and Central Government and therefore do not strictly fall within these guidelines. The All India Services cadres are constituted for each State or group of States and the strength is decided in consultation with the State Government or State Governments. The strength of these cadres is reviewed normally at intervals of five years by the Central Government in consultation with the State Government or State Governments concerned, keeping in view the present strength, specific needs of the States, attrition, the need for new incumbents etc.

Secrecy in administration

†1749. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement made by the Attorney General of India to the effect the secrecy in the administration is the main reasons for corruption prevalent there;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the measures taken by Government during the last three years to remove the secrecy in the administration and bring transparency therein?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the last 3 years several steps have been taken by the Government to ensure greater transparency. 90 facilitation centers have been set up by Ministries, departments and organizations of the Central Government to provide information and assistance to the public regarding the schemes and procedures of the organization concerned. Also 71 Central Government organizations have issued citizens charters' reflecting the commitment of the concerned ministries, departments or agencies to provide specific services within the timeframe specified. Some ministries and departments have also developed their own websites for promotion of E-governance. The Freedom of Information Bill 2000 has also been introduced in Parliament for ensuring greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies.

Abolition of CAT and SATs

1750. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to abolish or to empower itself to abolish the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and to empower respective State Governments to abolish the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) by amending the relevant Act;

(b) whether provision for the set of Administrative Tribunals was made following prolonged strike by Government employees for quick justice against arbitrary victimization on subjective grounds; and

(c) if so, the reasons for abolishing the CAT and SATs depriving the Government employees of the only means to secure quicker and speedier justice in matters of grievances against the administration affecting their services and pension matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Under the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 the power to set